Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 EUR-12 MCE-00 /083 W

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O P 260755Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6666 INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SO, US

SUBJ: CONTINGENCY RESPONSE TO BBC REPORT ON ARMS SURVEY TEAM

- 1. THE SOMALI SERVICE OF THE BBC BROADCAST A REPORT ON JULY 24 WHICH APPARENTLY WAS INTERPRETED BY SOME LISTENERS IN MOGADISCIO AS CANCELLATION OF THE US MILITARY SURVEY TEAM VISIT. THE REPORT MAY HAVE BEEN BASED ON THE DAVID OTTAWAY WASHINGTON POST STORY DATELINED KHARTOUM JULY 21 WHICH WE HAVE SEEN IN THE JULY 22-23 PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE. THE OTTAWAY STORY ASSERTS THE US DELAYED SENDING THE SURVEY TEAM AFTER STRONG WARNING FROM ETHIOPIA THAT IT WOULD SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE US IF WASHINGTON PROVIDES THE SOMALIS WITH ARMS.
- 2. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT YET BEEN QUESTIONED, BUT IF ASKED WE PLAN TO SAY THAT THE GSDR AND THE USG HAVE DISCUSSED SECURITY ASSISTANCE, THAT THE VISIT OF A MILITARY SURVEY TEAM IS ONE STEP IN THAT PROCESS, AND THAT A DATE FOR THE US TEAM TO VISIT SOMALIA HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED. WE PROPOSE TO DECLINE FURTHER COMMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORMAL PRACTICE NOT TO DISCUSS PUBLICLY MATTERS INVOLVING DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS. VOUGHT

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